

Members of Lok Sabha was announced by the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha in the house on 28th February, 1997. Consequent to this decision, LPG priority coupons have not been issued to Members of Lok Sabha from 1st April, 1997.

Under the revised Tatkal Scheme, any person can avail the LPG connection from any LPG distributor immediately on deposit of one time non-refundable amount of Rs. 4000/- alongwith the usual security.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (a) and (b) above.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Inland Waterways

1818. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to attract the private companies to invest in the Inland Waterways sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) The detailed policy guidelines for IWT sector including encouragement of private sector participation in Inland Waterways Transport sector are under finalisation. As such, presently, no firm indication about time is possible to be indicated.

Delhi-Jaipur N.H.

1819. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of four lane on Jaipur-Delhi N.H. has been completed;

(b) if not, the names of the sections where it is lying incomplete and reasons for delay; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Construction of 4 laning of National Highway No. 8 (Delhi-Jaipur Section) is as under :-

(i) Delhi to Gurgaon (km 36.63)	100%
(ii) Kotputli (km. 162.5) to Achrol (km. 231.00)	98.5%
(iii) Achrol (km. 231.00) to Jaipur (km. 263.00)	100%

The work of 4 laning from Gurgaon (km. 36.63) to Kotputli (km. 162.5) is in progress under Asian Development Bank Loan Assistance Programme and is targetted for completion by March, 2001.

[English]

Reservation in Minority Colleges

1820. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court verdict to give 50 per cent seats in colleges run by minority colleges to students of that community is being implemented;

(b) whether this right has been approved by the Government;

(c) if so, whether this verdict is being followed in colleges in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details of students applied, minorities amongst them in various courses in colleges of Delhi University and the number of students from minority communities selected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d) The Judgement of the Supreme Court rendered in St. Stephen's College case, permits an institution covered under Article 30(1) of the Constitution to admit upto fifty per cent students of the relevant minority. As the right flows from a Constitutional provision as interpreted by the Court the question of Government approving such an arrangement does not arise - the law declared by the Supreme Court is the law of the land in terms of Article-141 of the Constitution. As this facility is available only to institution enjoying protection of Article-30, the question of its application to Colleges, generally, does not arise.

[Translation]

Reservation to Backward Classes

1821. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to provide 27 percent reservation to the backward classes in the educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) The question of providing 27 percent

reservation to Backward Classes in educational institutions is under active consideration of the Government and a decision is likely to be taken soon in this regard.

Scheme for Irrigation Sector

1822. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any concrete scheme for irrigation sector have been formulated by the Government in view of the uncertainty of monsoon in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the expected increase in the quantity of food grain production in the country consequent upon the implementation of the scheme; and

(d) the number of farmers likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Normal rainfall is predicted over most parts of the country. From 1st June to 16th July, 1997 the cumulative rainfall was normal to excess in 26 out of 35 sub divisions and 64% districts of the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Esplionage Activity in DRDO

1823. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Intelligence Bureau officials have recently seized some floppy discs and documents containing information about scientific activity at the Defence Research Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the information as in the discs has been decoded;

(d) whether the persons connected with the spying have been apprehended; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (e) The floppies and documents seized by Intelligence Bureau were analysed by Defence Research and Development Organisation and it is confirmed that these floppies and documents did not contain any information on scientific activities of Defence Research and Development Organisation.

[Translation]

Loss of Life and Property in Narmada Valley

1824. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was loss of life and property in urban and rural areas of some districts in the Narmada Valley region of Madhya Pradesh on May 22, 1997;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made to ascertain the damage caused in rural and urban areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Narmada Valley region is lagging behind in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government have formulated any scheme for the rehabilitation and progress of the Narmada Valley region;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether any scheme have been formulated to include the above region in the Ninth Five Year Plan and the central assistance provided in this regard; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (i) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Air Services to SAARC Countries

1825. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision was taken in SAARC countries conference held in May, 1997 in Maldives to start direct air services among the seven member countries;

(b) if so, the action taken/progress made since then in this regard; and

(c) the time by which these services are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) At the 9th SAARC Summit held in Male in May, 1997, there was a decision that the Civil Aviation authorities of the member states should meet in the near future to explore the possibility of establishing direct services between SAARC capitals. The first meeting of the Civil Aviation Authorities of the member states is scheduled to be held in Dhaka on 27-29 August, 1997.